

Please add the following new claims:

A3

16. (New) The battery electrode according to claim 2, wherein an entire surface of the electrode plate is patterned by applying pressure, to which the lead is bonded.

17. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein the removed excess active material is collected by suction.

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3 and 8.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

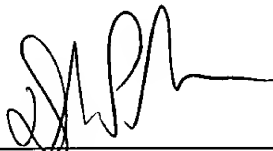
If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 371.5237.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

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By



Douglas P. Mueller  
Reg. No. 30,300

DPM/tvm